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Twenty-second session
Geneva, 5 April 1993
Agenda item 6

DRAFT REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN AND THE PROGRAMME BUDGET ON ITS TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 5 to .. April 1993

Rapporteur: Mr. José Perez Gabilondo (Argentina)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-second session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 5 to .. April 1993.

2. In the course of the session, ... plenary meetings were held. This report gives a short account of the proceedings of those meetings.

Opening statements

3. The Director of Programme Support and Management Services said that since its creation in 1969, the Working Party had played an extremely important role as an essential instrument of the Trade and Development Board and as a valuable source of support and advice for the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. It was to be hoped that, in discussions on the terms of reference of the Working Party in the weeks ahead, those roles would be maintained.

4. The Working Party's session had been delayed because of delays in the preparation of documentation resulting from the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Moreover, because of the short time available, the revised estimates for 1993 had been prepared in New York and had been submitted directly to the General Assembly. However, the delays in the process meant that the Working Party now had an opportunity to consider the draft programme narrative for 1994-1995 and to provide comments and observations to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Committee on Programme Coordination (CPC) if it so wished. It was to be hoped that such opportunities would also be provided in future.

5. The documentation before the Working Party was still incomplete, since the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the transfer of resources to and from UNCTAD had not yet been decided upon by the General Assembly.

6. With regard to document TD/B/WP(XXII)/Misc.2, the revised work programme for UNCTAD for 1993 incorporated the reorientations of the substantive work of UNCTAD as decided on at Cartagena and by the Board and its subsidiary bodies. With regard to document TD/B/WP(XXII)/Misc.1, it must be emphasized that the programme narrative for 1994-1995, which was based essentially on the new orientations reflected in the revised work programme for 1993, was very much a draft.

7. The subprogramme structures presented in the two documents were based on the revisions to the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 which the Working Party had discussed at its twenty-first session and which had now been approved by

the General Assembly. The priorities attached to the subprogrammes were as decided by the Board at the first part of its thirty-ninth session and endorsed by the General Assembly. High priority had been attached to 13 out of 20 subprogrammes.

8. The representative of the United States of America said that her delegation was extremely interested in the work of the Working Party and in its efforts to improve transparency, particularly with respect to the budgeting process. It was important to ensure a proper allocation of resources among programmes and to overcome the problems resulting from the fact that UNCTAD's programme of work was no longer synchronized with the budgetary cycle in New York. Her delegation wished to work closely with the secretariat to ensure that the goals set in Cartagena were attained.

9. The spokesman for the Group of 77 (Peru) said that his Group would also be working constructively to ensure as much transparency as possible in managing resources and activities in UNCTAD. It was important to note that, in discussing programmes, the Working Party must not in any way change the terms of reference that had been adopted for each subsidiary body of the Board. Proper coordination would be essential for the future success of UNCTAD.

Chapter I

REVIEW OF THE UNCTAD SECTION OF THE PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

(Agenda item 3)

10. For its consideration of this item, the Working Party had before it the following documentation:

"Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995: Section 8.A: UNCTAD - Programme narrative" (TD/B/WP(XXII)/Misc.1 and Add.1);

"UNCTAD 1993 revised work programme: Section 15: UNCTAD - Programme narrative" (TD/B/WP(XXII)/Misc.2).

11. At its 99th (opening) plenary meeting, on 5 April 1993, the Working Party decided to consider agenda item 3 in informal meetings.

Chapter II

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

12. The twenty-second session of the Working Party was opened on 5 April 1993 by Mr. L.B. Gatan (Philippines), Chairman of the Working Party at its twenty-first session.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

13. At its 99th (opening) plenary meeting, on 5 April 1993, the Working Party elected Mr. Michael Mugliston (Australia) as its Chairman and Mr. José Perez Gabilondo (Argentina) as its Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

14. Also at its 99th meeting, the Working Party adopted its provisional agenda (TD/B/WP.80), as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the UNCTAD section of the proposed United Nations programme budget for the biennium for 1994-1995
4. Provisional agenda for the twenty-third session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board.

15. In adopting its agenda, the Working Party decided that, in its discussions on agenda item 3, it would work on a subprogramme-by-subprogramme basis and for each subprogramme it would look at the revised programme narrative for 1993 (TD/B/WP(XXII)/Misc.2) and the programme narrative for 1994-1995 (TD/B/WP(XXII)/Misc.1).

D. Provisional agenda for the twenty-third session of the Working Party

(Agenda item 4)

[To be completed]

E. Other business

(Agenda item 5)

[To be completed as appropriate]

F. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 6)

[To be completed]